Application No. 09/498,375 Reply to Office Action of January 7, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30, 33-42, and 73 are pending in this application. Claims 30 and 34-40 are

amended by the present response. Claims 1-29 and 73 are allowed. Claims 30 and 33-42

were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 30 and 33-42 were noted as

allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second

paragraph.

Applicants initially gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable

subject matter in each of claims 1-30, 33-42, and 73.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 30 and 33-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second

paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response. Claims 30 and 34-40 are

amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. It should be noted

that claims 36-37 are also amended to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 33 and 41-

42 are stated as previously presented, but are now allowable in that claims 33 and 41-42

depend from claim 30 which is now allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that

the rejection be withdrawn.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the

present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested

that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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